

Pecan

Carya illinoensis (Wangenh.) K. Koch

Pecan is treated separately here from the true hickories listed elsewhere, although in wood form all hickories are often mixed together. Pecan is common in the broad, flat river bottoms of the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers, as well as some of their major tributaries. It is found primarily on deep, moist soils, although it will grow on upland sites, too. Pecan is a favorite nut tree because of its sweet nutmeat. It is cultivated in both its native forms and in hybrids of many different types. On a good site, it becomes an immense tree.

The sapwood is creamy white to pale brown, the heartwood more pale brown to reddish brown, sometimes containing streaks of a slightly darker hue. Frequently, it will have mineral streaks and bird peck or streaks that look like worm tunnels. The bark is thick, light to dark brown and sometimes gray, deeply and unevenly furrowed. The wood is semi-ring porous, though growth rings are distinct. The wood is close-grained, hard, very heavy and strong. It machines well and finishes well, but shrinks quite a bit and has some stability problems after drying. It is not durable and is subject to attack by boring insects.

Its major use is in furniture and wall paneling because of its attractive color and grain. As with other hickories, it can be used for tool handles (especially impact tools), ladder rungs, flooring and special products requiring a strong, tough, elastic wood. It has been used in smoking meats and as fuel wood. Pecan makes a beautiful shade tree and is commonly planted. The wood is difficult for the hobbyist to separate for shop use, but works like all other hickory species.



Szopa

